

By Ruth Hultz

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Jane Blazel of Quincy didn't realize that she was part of the nostalgia movement when she fell for her 75-year-old bungalow at 2244 Spring.

She just knew the house had everything she wanted — a big front porch, a fireplace, spacious rooms and a good neighborhood.

Before Blazel looked at her house, she knew the neighborhood was OK, because she grew up just across the street.

The Nesta family lived in the house for close to 70 years.

"Mary Nesta had a beauty shop in this basement," Blazel said. "My mom and sister got their hair cut here and my brother used to mow the lawn."

Blazel got the old house bug from her parents.

"My family loves old homes — the character and everything," Blazel said.

Although the spacious house was in good shape when she bought it, Blazel had some changes and updating to do.

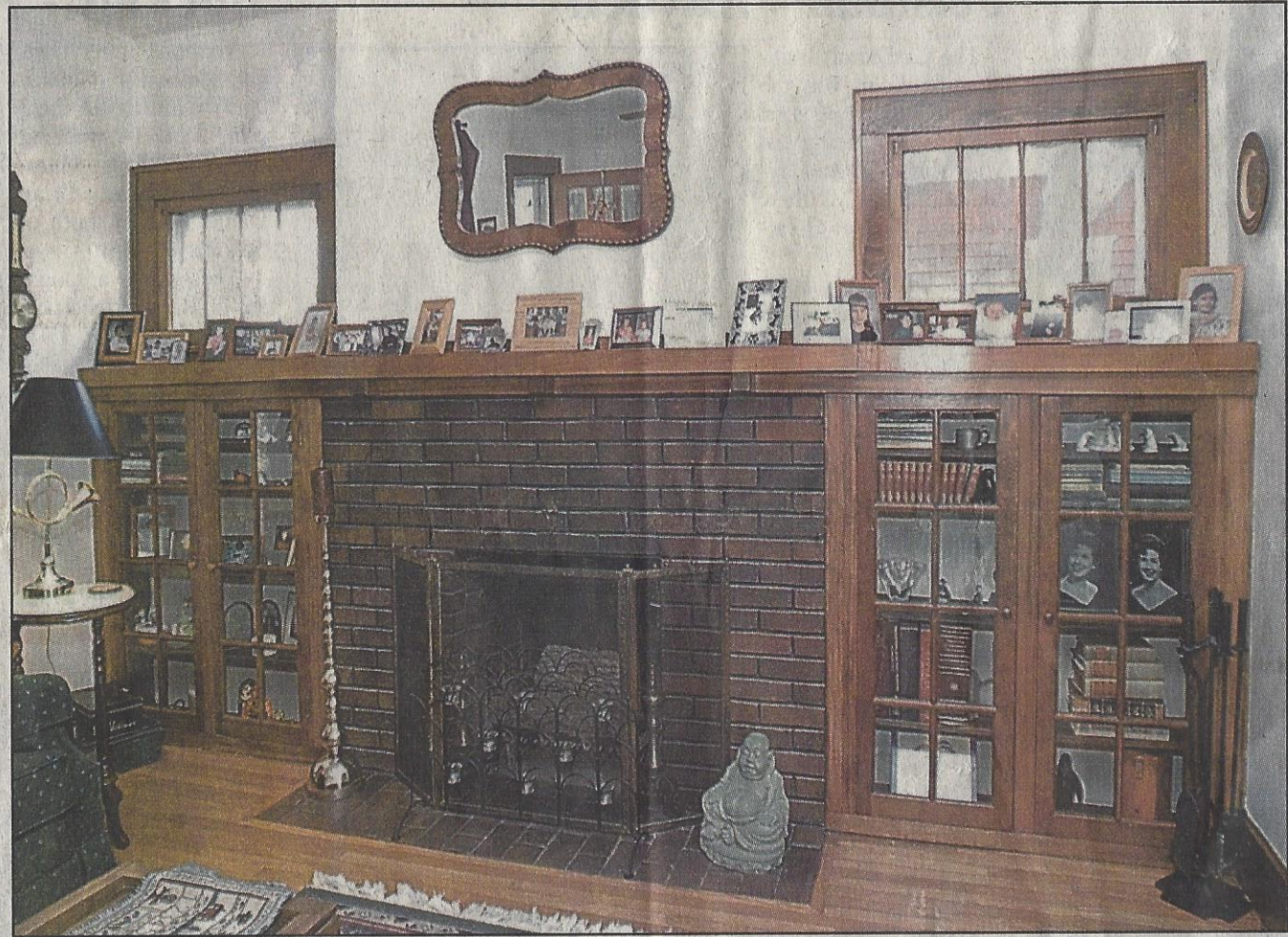
Blazel said she was well prepared to be a homeowner because she learned the skills she needs from her handy father and because of her parents' housewarming gift — Black and Decker's "The Complete Photo Guide to Home Repair."

"It is a tradition in this family for mom and dad to give you this book," Blazel said.

It has been two years of fairly constant work but she has had plenty of help from her father and friends, although she does many projects herself.

Blazel reglazed and painted all the windows in the house, used old flooring from the bathroom to patch where heating system changes had left unsightly spots in the living room and dining room wood floors.

She redid outside steps and recently scraped and repainted the front porch floor and railings. Blazel has repainted



Bungalows are known for their wonderful fireplaces and built-in bookcases.

every room at least once.

She did have professionals tackle the bathroom. It was gutted down to the lathe and plaster and a new bathroom was installed. She also had the kitchen countertops replaced and raised to a more workable height for her.

Blazel likes working on her house and always has a project in progress. She is currently decorating the finished basement.

With a cozy floor plan, friendly front stoop and porch large enough for a swing, bungalows caught America's attention during the early 1900s.

The bungalow style has been called the model-T of home design because it

revolutionized American architecture.

Today, riding America's nostalgia wave, bungalows are attracting more and more young homeowners. Because of a coast-to-coast rediscovery movement, Realtors and new home builders are selling scads of old and new bungalows — often to 20- to 30-year-olds who recognize the style's family-friendly qualities.

Restoration expert Ken Miedema said, "People are looking at old bungalows and saying, 'This is real wood and stone. This house is so simple, warm and woody; it has genuineness.' People are looking for the house their grandparents grew up in."

Where old bungalows can't be found, builders are satisfying homeowners' thirst for what's called America's favorite house. In North Carolina, they are so popular that cars carry 'Got Bungalows?' bumper stickers.

A modest bungalow was built for \$2,000 in the early 1900s and today a new, similar bungalow in Raleigh, N.C., for example, costs from \$154,000 to \$250,000. In California, where American bungalows started, new bungalows are springing up. Plan books are being reprinted and new houses with 24-inch eaves, exposed rafters and craftsman detailing are selling for \$350,000.